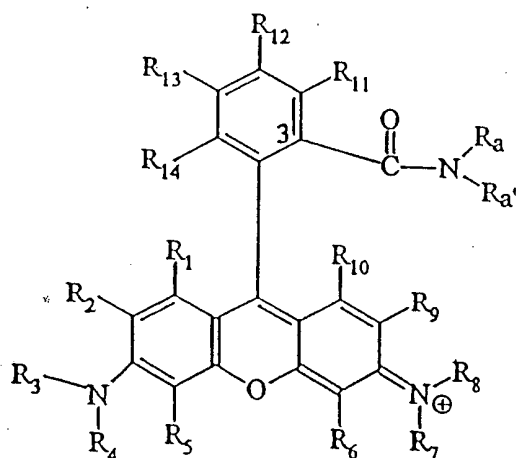


CLEAN VERSION OF REWRITTEN OR ADDED CLAIMS
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.21 (c)(1)(i)

Please add the following claims to the instant application:

21. A method of labeling a protein for fluorescent detection, comprising:
providing a fluorophore having the structure illustrated by Formula A

FORMULA A



where R₁ and R₁₀ taken alone are hydrogen or halogen; R₂, R₅, R₆ and R₉ taken alone are hydrogen, alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylether, alkylthioether, halogen or alkoxy; R₃, R₄, R₇ and R₈ taken alone are hydrogen, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl; R₂ and R₃ taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 2' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R₆ and R₇ taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 7' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R₄ and R₅ taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 4' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R₆ and R₇ taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 5' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R₃ and R₄ taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and

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one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_7 and R_8 taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are each hydrogen or halogen, where R_a and R_a are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and arylalkyl, wherein R_a confers resistance to lactam ring formation, and further wherein R_a contains a functional group; and, conjugating the fluorophore with ^{the} a protein through the R_a functional group of the fluorophore, the resultant conjugate being fluorescent upon excitation with light of a determinable wavelength.

22. The method as in claim 21 wherein said protein is attached to a solid support.
23. The method as in claim 21 wherein said protein is attached at an amine or sulfhydryl in said conjugate.
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